

STOCKINGS and HAMPERS

This year we are working with
Bridport Round Table
to provide hampers



QUIZ

to raise funds for Stockings & Hampers

Saturday **18 November** 6.30pm for 7pm
in Church House, South Street.

It's to raise funds to provide Christmas stockings and hampers for local families.

PRIZES and RAFFLE *** £5 per person
(Max 4-6 per table)

bring your own drinks/ nibbles.

Please Tel: 01308 456138 for more info/booking

Christmas Stockings:

This year the Parish will be giving 136 Christmas stockings to children who might not otherwise be given one. If you would like to help filling the stockings at 11.30 on Thursday 7th December, please contact Diana or Peter Wright on 01308 456967

Christmas Hampers:

This year, the Parish is working with Bridport Round Table to give Christmas Hampers to families in need. If you would like to contribute towards the cost, please use the following link:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/christmas-joy-campaign-2023> Any cheques, make payable to 'Bridport Round Table', post to the Rector or drop through the letter box: The Rectory, 84 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW

If you would like to help pack and/or deliver hampers at St Mary's SCHOOL on the morning of Saturday **23rd December**, please contact Mish Bartlett on 01308 456138.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Sunday **26 November** 3pm in St Swithun's Church.
Tea & Cake is served after the concert. Cost £12.

ADVERT FOR A VOLUNTEER

WEB Assistant required to update the new Parish of Bridport website. This is a voluntary role which would involve approx. 3½ hrs per week with training provided. For more information please contact Sue Pollock email: rognsuewbay@btinternet.com or 07903558568. Applications close Friday 12 January 2024.

19th November 2023

2nd Sunday before ADVENT

PARISH NEWS



Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Two Christians were talking at the back of church.

One said: "I really want to ask God a question. I want to ask God, why He allows all this poverty and suffering in the world today."

The other said: "Well, have you prayed, and asked Him why he allows it?" "I'm too scared," the first replied, "I worry that he'll ask me the same question."

I guess many of us ask that question over and over. Why is there such suffering in the world? Why does God allow it?

How often do we put ourselves in the frame when we think about these big questions of suffering, need, justice and peace?

It's easier to look outside of ourselves, than to see how our lives, our actions, choices, and attitudes might be part of the story of the world's suffering.

Jesus in fact gives us a gentle nudge to consider where we stand on this when he asks us what we value, what's important to us and then goes all out and reminds us – where our treasure is, there is our heart also.

What we value says something about our hearts, who we are.

Our Bishop is asking us to consider the ways our lives, what we do and say, is making Jesus known.

It's a good question to ask – I hope it might help us to see and value all that is already happening here that makes Jesus known in this place.

And perhaps we can also think about what it means to cherish those who make Jesus known to us and focus together on how we might put that call to make Jesus know at the heart of how we live.

Canon Deb Smith

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him
in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(or)
Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

TODAY'S READINGS

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30 *The Parable of the Talents*

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave 5 talents, to another 2, to another 1, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the 5 talents went off at once and traded with them, and made 5 more talents.

In the same way, the one who had the 2 talents made 2 more talents. But the one who had received the 1 talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the 5 talents came forward, bringing 5 more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me 5 talents; see, I have made 5 more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the 2 talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me 2 talents; see, I have made 2 more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the 1 talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the 10 talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Psalm 90:1-8, 12 *God's Eternity and Human Frailty*
A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

ORGAN RECITALS @ 3PM

Come and hear a wonderful organ recital at St Swithun's today (Sunday) **19 November** starting at 3pm.

WHOLENESS & HEALING SERVICE

Saturday **25 November** at St John's Church West Bay at 6pm